



WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, October 1, 2003, for the purpose of holding a quarterly review with the City Manager.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:40 p.m.. It was held in the Senior Classroom of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Council members Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, Alan Turnbull, Thomas X. White, and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Mr. Putens left at 9:30 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: James H. Inzeo, Sr., and Jennifer Slingland, Greenbelt News Review. persons.

Mayor Davis said the purpose of the meeting was an update from the City Manager on the status of the CAR Report and City projects.

Financial Report: Referring to the City Treasurer's memorandum of September 16, 2003, Mr. McLaughlin said revenues were on target, although income tax revenue is substantially lower than anticipated for FY 2004. Police aid funding from the state is also expected to be reduced. Mr. White commented that the Maryland Municipal League should be protesting this reduction. Mayor Davis said they are doing so but not publicly.

Management Objectives: Mr. Turnbull asked the status of plans for the animal facility. Mr. McLaughlin replied that this was still under study but that staff was currently looking at the rear of the Police Department lot. He said the project would be kept in house and done simply. He said the Hunting Ridge roundabout would be begun within the next two weeks. He also discussed the new format CARES is using on Wednesday nights to allow for greater privacy with clients. Regarding the skateboard park, staff is looking at two approaches, one that would place a bowl-shaped park into the hill, another more traditional design. There is a preference for the former, but it would only be pursued if competitive in price. Mayor Davis said the temporary facility is often empty and asked if the skateboarders would likely become bored as quickly with the permanent park. Mr. Roberts expressed concern that so much of the funding would go toward engineering that not enough would be left for an adequate variety of equipment.

Capital Projects: Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the capital projects list. In response to a query from Mr. Turnbull, he said he would check on the status of the bus shelter across from Greenway Center. There was discussion of the need for resolving the issue of the Observatory. Mayor Davis asked about costs from tropical storm Isabel, and Mr. McLaughlin said we would be applying to FEMA for reimbursement.

Mayor Davis asked about the status of the bike patrol, now that the department is fully staffed. She noted Council has not seen a report in a while.

CAR Report: Council discussed item #82, which had been placed on hold for clarification. When Mr. Putens explained he wanted only addresses for houses that are rented, it was agreed to go ahead. Council raised a number of questions about the implementation of hawker licenses. Mr. Roberts and Mr. Turnbull both described instances where cars were driven straight into Buddy Attick Park, past the playground to the picnic tables and asked that a way be found to prevent this practice. Mayor Davis requested a report on the Park Rangers this year: how many of them were there, where were they located, what kind of transportation were they using, and what were they doing? She commented that they had not been visible at all.

Regarding #13 for 2002, Mr. Turnbull clarified that his intention regarding the lighting issue outside the Community Center had been to say that he would not support investing money to work on the bas reliefs unless there could be an improvement in the standard of the lighting back to what had been originally proposed and implemented by the architects. Mayor Davis also clarified that the staff evaluation of the playgrounds in Greenbelt East should be shared with the homeowners associations. She said they understood that this evaluation was only to be a superficial one but that if there were any serious problems spotted, they wanted to be made aware.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gallagher
City Clerk